COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION
OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
UNDER 42 U.S.C. §1983 - Page 1 -

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Washington and with Defendant KITSAP COUNTY.

- 1.4 Defendant BARBARA MULL is a nurse working for CONMED, INC. In fulfilling its contract with defendant KITSAP COUNTY. She is believed to be a resident of Kitsap County, Washington.
- 1.5 Defendant Dr. BRUCE KALER, MD was a doctor working for CONMED,

 INC. He is believed to be a resident of Kitsap County,

 Washington.
- 1.6 Defendant Officer RT#1466, whose true name is presently unknown, is a corrections officer working for Kitsap County, and is believed to be a resident of Kitsap County, Washington.
- 1.7 Defendant ARLEN JOHNSON, ARNP is a medical provider working for defendant CONMED, Inc, and is believed to be a resident of Kitsap County, Washington.
- 1.8. Defendant C. MCCARTHY is the Health Services Administrator working for defendant CONMED, Inc, and is believed to be a resident of Kitsap County.
- 1.9 All acts and omissions alleged in this complaint occurred in Kitsap County, Washington.
- 1.10 An action herein is a claim brought under 42 U.S.C. §1983, and states a Federal Claim.
- 1.11 Federal Courts have original jurisdiction over this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1441 and 42 U.S.C. §1983.

II. <u>CAUSE OF ACTION - VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFF'S</u> <u>CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. §1983</u>

2.1 From January 24, 2012 through January 20, 2013, Defendant

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KITSAP COUNTY operated a public jail facility under color of law at 614 Division Street in Port Orchard, Kitsap County, Washington for housing incarcerated inmates for both pretrial and post conviction incarceration.

- 2.2 Defendant KITSAP COUNTY has a non-delegable duty to provide appropriate and necessary medical services to those incarcerated in its jail facility, to ensure the inmates' health, welfare, and safety.
- 2.3 Defendant KITSAP COUNTY contracted with defendant, CONMED, INC., to provide inmate healthcare services in an attempt to meet its duty, at a flat rate of compensation, regardless of medical needs of the inmate population, and the costs thereof. This flat rate of compensation specifically includes an amount for medications for inmates, based not on medications dispensed, but on population in the facility for each month, except specific medical conditions not here relevant.
- 2.4. The practical effect of this flat rate compensation package is that the profit of CONMED, INC. declines for every pill, procedure and expense provided for medical care of inmates, except specific medical conditions not here relevant.
- 2.5 CONMED, INC. is a for-profit corporation.
- 2.6 CONMED, INC has a policy, express or de facto, of delaying and denying medical care pain to increase its profits, and directs or pressures its medical care providers to follow this policy.
- 2.7 Defendant CONMED, INC., hired and supervised numerous

employees, including BARBARA MULL, RN, ARLEN JOHNSON, ARNP, Sue Stevens, RN the Health Services Administrator (HSA), and C. McCarthy, RN, PHN, HSA, to act as agents on its behalf in fulfilling its contract with defendant, KITSAP COUNTY.

- 2.8 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH is a disabled veteran, having served in the United States Air Force. His disability was based in part on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as he has seen a lot of death in his career, and has been diagnosed as having Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by the Veteran's Administration. He has full medical benefits under the Veteran's Administration.
- 2.9 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH has a history of spinal stenosis directly related to military service, first documented in 1998 by abnormal spine films, and next in 2002 by increasing upper extremity symptoms with numbness and tingling. On 12/22/11, he was cleared and approved by the VA to have surgery to repair and alleviate this spinal stenosis. Surgery was planned and scheduled for February 13, 2012.
- 2.10 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH is an alcoholic, but was abstinent for a long time, from September 2010 until January 23, 2012.
- 2.11 MICHAEL THEURICH on January 23, 2012 came upon an auto accident on Highway 16 near Gig Harbor. He viewed a dead person at the scene of the accident. This triggered his service related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, causing him great anxiety, for which he self medicated with alcohol.

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- 2.12 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH was arrested for driving While under the Influence of Alcohol on January 24, 2012, and was taken to the Kitsap County Jail, where he remained until January 20, 2013.
- 2.13 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH was held as a pretrial detainee at the Kitsap County Jail from January 24, 2012 until when he was convicted by guilty plea on July 24, 2012, and sentenced on August 7, 2012. He thereafter was serving his sentence until his release on January 20, 2013.
- 2.14 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH was honest about his medical condition, and advised jail medical staff, Officer Skjordal, performing a medical screening report that he had cervical stenosis.
- 2.15 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH was honest about his medical condition, and on January 25, 2012 advised jail medical staff, CONMED employee, ARLEN JOHNSON, ARNP, performing an initial health assessment, that he had a history of Degenerative Disk Disease with a an operation scheduled at the Veteran's Administration. ARNP JOHNSON wrote an interdisciplinary progress note that THEURICH said he was in process for a cervical Spine Fusion at Swedish Hospital, and wrote "suggest he apply for furlough for an outside appointment, or reschedule [the surgery]." Johnson said it was "not emergent."
- 2.16 On January 27, 2012, THEURICH submitted an Inmate Requests

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form (kite) to jail administration as follows:

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Medical Liason, Jail staff, and classification.

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Medical furlough; Have scheduled since 22 Dec. 11 cervical (Seattle) spine, cervical laminopectomy on 13 Feb. 12, 0530, Swedish Hospital, James Tower, Seattle, Neuroscience Institute, Dr. John Hsiag [Hsiang], 4 days hospital with 3 to 4 mo convalescence-recuperation. A 31 Jan 12, preop appt. withe VA primary care Dr. Christina Howard, CBOC Federal Way - Dept VA.

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Officer 1466, initials RT, responded on February 1, 2012 as follows:

"? (FORWARDED) You must contact your attorney regarding your furlough."

- 2.17 That same day, January 27, 2012, Plaintiff THEURICH submitted
 - a CONMED, INC. Form "Health Services Request" (kite) stating:

cervical stenosis and numbness lost feeling in arms, muscle twitch and heavy legs. MEDICAL FURLOUGH REQUEST. Spinal Surgery confirmed since 22 Dec. 11 at Swedish Hospital Cherry hill, Neuroscience institute, Dr. John Hsaing [Hsiang], RN Katie Rupe, and Jayne Choi. Primary Provider Federal Way CBOC - VA, Dr. Christina Howard. Preop lab & tests 31 Jan. operation 13 Feb 12 05:30- cervical laminectomy. Service connected veteran with cervical stenosis condition. Operation scheduled on 13 Feb 05:30. Primary Care clearance appt 31 Jan. 12 -labs (Dr. Christina Howard). Cardiologist clearance after 31 Jan. 12 request Dr. John Hsaing [Hsiang], Swedish Neuroscience Institute on a fee service 4 day hospital stay w/3-4 months recoup physical therapy.

On February 1, 2012, RN BARBIE MULL responded for CONMED, INC. in writing to this kite, ranking it as requiring a chart

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review, non urgent. She wrote in reply:

Medical does not do furloughs. That is worked out with your lawyer and the courts. Sign a release so we can review your current records.

The records were already in possession of CONMED, INC.

2.18 On January 31, 2012, a CONMED Employee, a Mental Health Professional whose name cannot be deciphered, noted in the initial evaluation and treatment plan:

Medical history: cervical stenosis; numbness in arms; twitching

2.19 On January 31, 2012, a CONMED Employee, Dr. Vondran, MD, noted in his psychiatric assessment:

Avis III: Cervical stenosis, parasthesia, Muscle twitching

- 2.20 Plaintiff THEURICH was unable to obtain a furlough as his public defender did not feel this was within the scope of his employment or funding. Further, his attorney does not have an obligation to provide medical care to MICHAEL THEURICH, as do KITSAP COUNTY, CONMED, INC. and its employees. No other person made arrangements for Mr. THEURICH to be released. THEURICH was prevented from attending the required surgery by his incarceration,
- 2.21 The scheduled operation passed on February 13, 2012 with no surgery occurring. No alternate date was arranged by CONMED, INC., or its employees, for surgery to occur. The cervical spinal stenosis went unrepaired.
- 2.22 On August 16, 2012, Plaintiff submitted an addition Inmate

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Request to Jail staff as follows:

Nature of Request: Medical Liaison, classification, jail Staff
Re: See previous Kite 27 Jan. 12. Now that I'm sentenced; when and how can I get my cervical laminectomy which was scheduled for 13 Feb 12 05:30 a. I have no lawers because I'm now in the sentenced phase. I need care to prevent further numbness, partial paralysis and spinal chord nerve damage. I asked for a medical furlough in Jan 27, 2012 (2 kites - submitted in Jan 12).

There is a hand written notation by jail staff: "MEDICAL"

"Returned per officer Slippers"

2.23 On August 16, 2012, Plaintiff THEURICH submitted another kite on a medical form: Health Services Request. He described his health problem as follows:

Cervical Stenosis; On 27 Jan. 2012 I submitted a medical kite and inmate kite in which I had surgery scheduled for cervical laminectomy on 13 Feb 12. Now that I'm sentenced when and how can I get this required care to prevent further numbness and paralysis? (I have no more attorney on this criminal matter) trial phase over

The reply on August 17, 2012 from CONMED employee Barbie Mull,

RN was as follows:

Scheduled for release 1/10/13. Your records indicate neck surgery schedule for February 2013. I will schedule you to be seen by our provider to discuss your concerns.

- 2.24 Plaintiff THEURICH was seen by DR. BRUCE KALER, MD on August
 - 20, 2012. He wrote on the progress interdisciplinary notes:

Wanted to discuss when he will have neck surgery. As previously discussed scheduled after his release which maybe Jan 2013.

Assessment: Cervical Radiculitis
Plan: Naproxen 500 mg twice daily as needed

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2.25 Plaintiff THEURICH put in another Health Services Request form 2 on October 10, 2012 describing his health problem: 3 Naproxen is no longer providing inflammatory relief from pain due to my 4 cervical stenosis condition. January 2012 I 5 asked for a medical furlough to complete my scheduled operation. By my pain feeling, now 6 worse, I fear my risks of numbness or partial paralysis is getting worse as time continues. 7 8 On October 12, 2012 CONMED employee Barbie Mull, RN, replied 9 that she will schedule with the provider for a followup. 10 2.26 On October 19, 2012 CONMED employee Dr. Kaler, MD, saw 11 plaintiff and noted: 12 Persistent longstanding and cervical 13 radiculitis bilaterally upper extremity. Some initial help from Naproxen, now bit worse. 14 Had trial of Tegritol few years ago, but no response and no side effects. No change in 15 physical findings. Reviewed VA record of C-16 spine MRI + EMG. Assessment: Radiculitis. Plan: continue Naproxen 500 17 twice a day as needed. Begin Gabapentin 300 mg once in the evening. Re-evaluate in one 18 week. Consider increase weekly by 300 mg per 19 day. 20 2.27 On October 26, 2012 DR. KALER saw Plaintiff THEURICH again, 21 making the following notations: 22 Assessment: Cervical Radiculitis, Chronic 23 Plan: Increase Gabapentin 300 mg, twice a day 24 2.28 Plaintiff THEURICH sought help by another Health Services 25 Request on November 7, 2012, stating: 26 Dr. said I'd have another followup on 2 Nov. 27 about Gabapentin- neuralgia/stenosis. Already past date. When? 28 On November 8, 2012 CONMED employee BARBIE MULL, RN, replied

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1 as follows: 2 Sorry for the delay, you are scheduled soon. 3 On November 9, 2012, DR. KALER saw Plaintiff THEURICH again, 4 making the following notations: 5 Assessment: Cerv. radiculitis 6 Plan: Increase Gabapentin 600 mg PM + 300mg in AM. Re-eval 2 wks. 7 2.29 Plaintiff THEURICH sought help by another Health Services 8 9 Request on November 16, 2012, stating: 10 Didn't get called out for 16 Nov follow up on cervical stenosis and medication follow-up 11 Current meds not working - still 12 painful rt arm/shoulder. 13 On November 19, 2012 CONMED employee BARBIE MULL, RN, replied 14 as follows: 15 Assessment: The provider said to re-evaluate you in 16 2 weeks from your last clinic visit on 11-9-12. That will be 11-23-12. 17 I do not see that you were scheduled on 18 11/16/12 for follow up. Will refer this to the provider for review. 19 20 On November 23, 2012, CONMED employee RN Marguins 21 Plaintiff THEURICH in clinic, making the following notations: 22 Inmate at clinic for follow up R/T 23 stenosis. Temp 98.5°, BP 130/84, HR 84. 24 DR. KALER wrote a Physician's Order on the same date to: 25 Resume Gabapentin 300mg tid x 30 days. Add Hydrochlorothiazide 25mg gAM x 30 days. 26 Recheck in clinic 11-30-12. 27 On November 30, 2012, Dr. Kaler saw Plaintiff THEURICH in 28 follow up on peripheral neuropathy, making the following Anthony C. Otto

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2	Assessment: Cerv. Radicultus.	
3	Plan: Resume Gabapentin 300mg the hydrochlorothiazide 25mg qd, consider	
4	N	111010450
5	5 2.30 Plaintiff THEURICH sought help by another H	ealth Services
6	Request on December 3, 2012, stating:	
7	7 30 Nov 12 follow up per Dr. Kaler.	3 + i]]
8	retaining water, swollen ankles. Still in arms.	
9	On December 5 2012 CONMED amplayed Barbia Mu	ll PN replied
10	. `	ii, MM, Tepiteu
11	as follows:	
12	Sorry for the delay, you are scheduled week.	this
13	.3	
14	On December 7, 2012, DR. KALER saw Plaintiff	THEURICH again,
15	making the following notations:	
16	and the second s	edema, no
17	.7 sx phlebitis	
18	Plan: Increase Gabapentin 600mg tid. Hydrochlorothiazide to 50mg qAM. Add KC	Increase
19	.9∥	Naproxen
20	500mg BiD. Re-eval one week.	
21	2.31 Plaintiff THEURICH sought help by another H	ealth Services
22	Request on December 21, 2012, stating:	
23	Swollen left leg, near knee and ankles.	Some pain
24	increase. (3 rd time to ask for follow u shoulder pain and left neck pain. Sam	vup.) Left Same problem
25	from carliar no hotton	
26	On December 24, 2012 CONMED employee JW Marquin	ns, RN, replied
27	as follows:	
28	We will schedule to be seen at clinic.	
	2.32 Plaintiff THEURICH filed an Inmate Grievance	Form (Tracking
	COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION Port OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS (360)	Anthony C. Otto Attorney at Law ost Office Box 1368 Orchard, WA 98366 876-5566 Telephone 895-8689 Facsimile

No. 2012-508) on December 21, 2012, stating:

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In the last 3 weeks, I've had swelling in the ankle and knee, burning sensations in the left leg. This is the 3rd time I've had to ask for follow ups on this care. However on each visit the Dr. tells me he will follow up on the progress of how the medicines are working and the pain. I'm not getting those follows in a timely manner as the doctor told me. I'm concerned this current situation is related to my stenosis as I indicated 27 Jan 2012. Last week, a fasting blood draw was I haven't been informed on how this may taken. result or may not result to the declining stenosis condition. My concern is that a less effective course of treatment is in progress, whereas my neurosurgery doctor at Swedish Neuro Surgery Institute has already ordered surgery for 13 Feb 2012. My fear continues that this delay of earlier giving me a realistic treatment is now not opportunity to be cured. Delaying follow ups only contributes to my declining condition, unknown nerve damage, or increase in pain. If this clinic cannot provide this service, then schedule with my neurosurgeon or medical furlough to get need of care.

Officer RF #1418 received the Inmate Grievance Form 12/24/12 at 0930 and assigned the grievance to CONMED HSA on 12/24/12. On January 3, 2013, CONMED employee C. MCCARTHY, RN, PHN, Health Services Manager, replied as follows:

On Dec. 7, 2012, you were seen by the doctor for swelling in your lower legs - left worse than the right. The doctor increased your medication in an attempt to decrease the swelling and scheduled you for re-evaluation in one week. Our concern was that you may have a blood clot. You were checked twice following that time, and an ultrasound was ordered to rule out a blood clot. You had an ultrasound of your leg today, which was negative for a blood clot. You are scheduled for a follow up visit with Dr. Kaler to decide your next step in treatment.

On January 7, 2013, Kitsap County Jail Lieutenant ROXANNE

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PAYNE #1401 marked the grievance "Not Sustained."

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2.33 Plaintiff THEURICH filed an Inmate Grievance Form (Tracking

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2013-023) on January 10, 2013, stating:

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Health Services Manager only addressed my course of care for the swelling on my leg. However, the focus of my problem/complaint is that I have had to additional kites to "remind" of weekly appointments. On review of previous kites, 10 Oct 2012, I had to submit a kite to be seen when the doctor told me I would be seen a week earlier than the kite was written. On 7 Nov 12, I submitted a second kite to be seen. CONMED answered on 8 Nov sorry for delay. On 16 Nov I submitted another to which I thought I would be seen 9 Nov The doctor has been doing weekly appointments to monitor my pain. The appt person rather put me in for appt on 23 Nov. On 21 Dec I had submit a 3rd kite to be seen on the pain and a new swelling problem. My concern, this is a repeated oversight problem with lasting impact on my pain. Finally, on 16 Aug 12 you (CONMED) stated my records indicate surgery for Feb 2013. I'm 3 weeks from February 2013. When is my pre-op scheduled and when is my surgery date? Most surgeries are scheduled 2 to 3 months in advance. CONMED has known my condition since 27 Jan 2012. My pain has changed and worsened since the start qabapentin. I would like to know what date my pre-op and surgery is on, based on what I asked on the 16 Aug 2012 med kite and previous kites.

Officer #1415 received the Inmate Grievance Form 01/11/13 at 1012 and assigned the grievance to Jail Medical on 01/11/13. At the top of page 2 is a received stamp with the date of Jan 11 2013.

On January 21, 2013, CONMED employee C. MCCARTHY, HSA, replied as follows:

Your surgery is scheduled for after your release, which was supposed to be in January 2013. That is what Dr. Kaler wrote in your chart in August 2012. You have been treated for cervical radiculitis for a few years. I have

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only been the manager since November so I am only familiar with your leg injury.

On January 24, 2013, Kitsap County Jail Lieutenant Roxanne Payne #1401 marked the grievance "Not Sustained," and noting that Plaintiff THEURICH was released 01/20/13.

- 2.34 The stated surgery date of February 2013 had never been scheduled.
- 2.35 Despite repeated requests and complaints about his ongoing stenosis symptoms, no surgical relief was provided while Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH was incarcerated.
- 2.36 According to Dr. Zhang, MD on July 1, 2013:

The patient [MICHAEL THEURICH] had an MRI scan more than a year ago and also had a repeat MRI scan recently. Comparison of the imaging studies shows a clear progression of cervical stenosis and cord compression, course signal changes due to disc herniation and spondylosis with hypertrophied facets. On the latest MRI scan, the patient is starting to lose the lordotic feature on the cervical spine.

The surgery needs to be done in a sooner than later fashion since the patient has this progressive cervical myelopathy.

2.37 According to Dr. Robert Buckley, MD on July 1, 2013:

He [MICHAEL THEURICH] is quite symptomatic on presentation with marked atrophy of his hand muscles, significant paresthesias, and bilateral upper extremity weakness. The symptoms are quite disabling, and he has not been able to work since being released from jail.

2.38 After his release from jail, the VA needed to, from the beginning, medically work up, screen, and approve surgery for Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH. Surgery to repair the spinal

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stenosis was not able to be accomplished until October 8, 2013.

- 2.39 The surgery was more extensive than the surgery planned in February 13, 2012 as there had been a clear progression of the myelopathy due to lack of surgical intervention while in jail.
- 2.40 Defendants KITSAP COUNTY and CONMED, INC., and CONMED INC. Employees Dr. BRUCE KALER, MD, BARBARA MULL, RN, Kitsap County Officer RT, #11466, ARNP ARLEN JOHNSON, and HSA C. MCCARTHY were deliberately indifferent to the suffering of Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH. The failure by Defendants KITSAP COUNTY, and CONMED, INC., and CONMED, INC.'s agents and staff to take timely, reasonable, inexpensive and appropriate steps to ameliorate, mitigate and avoid the effects of spinal stenosis constitutes deliberate indifference to his medical needs, and was a violation of the rights of the plaintiff.
- 2.41 KITSAP COUNTY and CONMED, INC. have a policy of requiring incarcerated inmates to arrange their own medical care by obtaining furloughs for medical care when it the responsibility of KITSAP COUNTY to ensure that their medical needs are met. This policy is in violation of the inmate's constitutional rights under the $14^{\rm th}$ and $8^{\rm th}$ Amendments to the United States Constitution, and is in violation of RCW 70.48.130(7), and results in unmet medical needs incarcerated persons. This policy resulted in unmet medical needs of Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH.

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- 2.42 Deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of prisoners constitutes unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain proscribed by the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution to be free from cruel and unusual punishment, made applicable to the States by the Fourteenth Amendment. Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH, as both a post conviction detainee, and as a pretrial detainee on the Kitsap County charge, has also been denied Due Process of Law under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments in imposition punishment upon him. These deprivations derogation and contrary to 42 U.S.C. §1983.
- 2.43 Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH is entitled to damages for medical and other special expenses, pain and suffering, progressive cervical disease and disability and general damages proximately resulting from the acts of the defendants, including costs of suit and reasonable attorney fees under 42. U.S.C. §1988.

III. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

For the reasons stated above, Plaintiff MICHAEL THEURICH prays for the following relief:

- 3.1 For judgment against each of the defendants, jointly and severally, for monetary special damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 3.2 For judgment against each of the defendants, jointly and severally, for general compensatory damages in an amount to be

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1 determined at trial; 2 For judgment for punitive damages against each of the 3.3 3 defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be 4 determined at trial; 5 For attorney fees and costs authorized by statute, including 3.4 6 reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. §1988; 7 For such other relief as the court deems just. 8 9 10 Dated this 13th day of February, 2015 11 12 ANTHONY Z. OTTO, WSBA 11146 13 Attorney for Plaintiff P.O. Box 1368 14 Port Orchard, WA 98366 15 tonv@anthonyotto.com (360) 876-5566 - Telephone 16 (360) 895-8589 - Facsimile 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

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